

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 21, 2005, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 2 and 9. In that same Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Published Pat. Application No. 2004-0030095-A1 in the name of Sunkara et al. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,867,350 issued to Pedain et al. in view of U.S. Published Pat. Application No. 2004-0030095-A1 in the name of Sunkara et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 3,022,272 issued to Schnell.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Published Pat. Application No. 2004-0030095-A1 in the name of Sunkara et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention regarding Sunkara et al. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the instant application and in keeping with the spirit of the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG) 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), Claim 1 has been cancelled, thus obviating any grounds for rejection based upon that claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,867,350 issued to Pedain et al. in view of U.S. Published Pat. Application No. 2004-0030095-A1 in the name of Sunkara et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 3,022,272 issued to Schnell. Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled, thus obviating any grounds for rejection based upon that claim. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention regarding the cited art, but have amended those claims previously directly dependent upon Claim 1 to depend from Claim 2. Given the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claim 2, Applicants contend that those claims dependent thereupon are also allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and reverse her rejection of Claims 3-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,867,350 issued to Pedain et al. in view of U.S. Published Pat. Application No. 2004-0030095-A1 in the name of Sunkara et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 3,022,272 issued to Schnell.

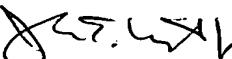
Conclusion

Applicants have amended Claim 3; have cancelled Claims 1 and 8; and have added Claims 11-14. Such claim amendments add no new matter and find support in the specification.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 2-7 and 9-14. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for other than allowance, she is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below, so that additional changes to the claims may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


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